

JGAC of APTA Home Health & APTA Geriatrics – Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 8:30–9:30 PM ET

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Eva Norman, Jamie Kuettel, Kevin Cezat, Silke Mildenberger, Andrew Mordan, Amy Hedrick, Tara Maroney, Justin Elliott

Non-Attendees: Ellen Strunk, Steven Osovsky, Denise Wentzell, Phil Goldsmith

1. Welcome

Eva opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

2. Congressional & Regulatory Update — Justin Elliott

Justin provided federal legislative and regulatory updates relevant to home health and geriatrics practice.

Key updates

- **Telehealth flexibilities** received a **two-year extension through 2027**; permanent policy remains an advocacy priority.
- **Federal student loan regulatory proposal** from the Department of Education may negatively affect healthcare workforce stability. APTA is addressing this through:
 - Formal comment submission
 - Coalition engagement
 - Exploration of potential legal strategies
- Discussion included:
 - National Health Service Corps legislative developments
 - Medicare payment concerns and ongoing therapy payment pressures
 - Prior authorization barriers
 - Need to address undervalued therapy codes

Follow-up

- Eva to send Justin Sue Whitney's contact information regarding the canalith repositioning maneuver CPT code issue.

- Justin to coordinate with Alice Bell and CPT RUC representatives regarding future survey opportunities and supporting data.

3. JGAC Mission, Scope & Responsibilities — Proposed Charter Changes

The committee reviewed proposed charter revisions.

Discussion highlights

- Proposal to expand committee membership to **10 members**, enabling potential collaboration with the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy
- Clarification of committee expectations including:
 - Active advocacy participation
 - Educational contributions
 - Committee engagement and accountability

Action

- All members to review updated charter and provide feedback.

4. Taskforce Reports

A. Telehealth & Digital Care Policy Taskforce

(No formal report presented; Kevin was asked to send.)

B. Payment Reform & Value-Based Care Taskforce — Amy Hedrick

- Amy confirmed ongoing work within the taskforce.
- Charter to be shared with the committee for review.

Action: Amy to distribute taskforce charter post-meeting.

5. Advocacy Infrastructure & Communications

A. Website & Records

- Update on **APTA Geriatrics website Phase II integration**, including planned addition of a news/updates section.
- Phase II timeline anticipated for March.

Action: Ellen to follow up with Alex Connelly and Grace regarding Phase II completion.

B. APTA Communications

Newsletter Articles

- Potential topics discussed including:
 - Administrative burden and regulatory complexity
 - Provider burnout
 - Drew and Silke volunteered to collaborate on an article addressing administrative burden and burnout.
 - Policy impact on clinical practice
 - **2/24:** Ellen — Recent OIG focus on home health
 - **3/10:** March is National MS Awareness Month — highlight resources and the role of PTs in MS care – Steven Osovsky
 - **3/24:** Falls with Major Injury measure — recent updates relevant to Home Health and Geriatrics – Kevin Cezat
 - **4/7:** Anticipated SNF proposed rule summary
 - **4/21:** Coordinated outreach encouraging email/calls to Representatives in support of APTA Advocacy Day on the Hill (details and talking points to follow from APTA) – Silke Mildenberger
 -

Actions

- Drew to contact Justin for supporting resources.
- Committee members invited to volunteer for additional articles.

Thinkific Platform

- Tara to gather additional information from Beth Black regarding platform utilization and future plans.

Action: Tara to report back next meeting.

6. Key Contact Recruitment Update

Discussion focused on strengthening federal advocacy infrastructure.

Key points

- Need to expand federal Key Contact coverage across priority districts.
- Identified need for a designated committee lead for ongoing engagement and mentoring.

- Planning for Capitol Hill advocacy participation in April.

Actions

- Eva to recruit a committee member to oversee the Key Contact program.
- Eva to send mid-March recruitment email targeting priority districts.
- Key Contacts to prepare for potential Hill visits.

7. Open Forum

Additional discussion

- Motion development preparation for future House of Delegates cycles.
- Collaboration between Tara and Jamie on early concept development.
- Reminder regarding Payment Advocacy Summit participation:
 - Academies/sections to submit names of funded designees once APTA distributes instructions.
- Eva to circulate Rachel Miller's regulatory report.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026 — 8:30 PM ET